Application/Control Number: 09/980,288

Art Unit: 2632

## **CLMPTO**

03/12/02

- 1. A method of encoding at least two sets of data bits into a single encoded block, wherein each set of data bits includes a primary set of bits to be encoded and a secondary set of bits to remain unencoded, wherein the encoding technique requires a set of code terminating bits to be added to the primary set of bits, the method comprising: combining the two sets of primary bits; and encoding the combined two sets of primary bits, whereby one set of code terminating bits is added to the combined two sets of primary bits.
- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the two sets of data bits each include a header portion and a payload portion, the payload portion comprising encoded speech.
  - 3. (amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the encoding step is a channel encoding step for encoding the at least two sets of data bits for transmission on a packet switched network.

Page 3

Application/Control Number: 09/980,288

Art Unit: 2632

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the data bits are for transmission on an EDGE packet switched network, wherein the at least two sets of data bits are encoded into a single RLC/MAC block.

- 5. An encoder for encoding at least two sets of data bits into a single encoded block, each set of data bits including a primary set of bits to be encoded and a secondary set of bits to remain unencoded, wherein the encoding technique requires a set of code terminating bits to be added to each primary set of bits, the encoder comprising: input means for receiving the primary set of bits from each set of data bits and combining them; encoding mans for encoding the combined primary set of bits from each set of data bits; and output means for adding a single set of code terminating bits to the combined encoded primary sets of bits.
- 6. A packet switched network including the encoder of claim 5.
  - 7. (amended) The encoder of claim 5 wherein at least two sets of data bits each include a header portion and a payload portion, the payload portion including encoded speech and the single encoded block being an RLC/MAC block.